

Strange Fruit

In Me and the Devil Blues,
bluesman Robert Johnson,
an American legend, has been
completely relmagined. This
fictionalized highershy takes us
deep into the heart of some of the
darkest chapters in American
history. All was a simple farmhand
who dramed of becoming a great
bluesman. When RJ made a deal with
the devil, he lest his wife and his
mortal soul. Now he may lose his last
remaining possession: his life.



Kidnapped by thugs, Rd is locked in a timy cell to await mb gustice. His only hope lies with gangster Clyde Barrow. Clyde, however, has problems of his own. Masquerading as a newspaper reporter, Clyde befriends Stanley McClonald, the most powerful man in town. Clyde is all set to help free Rd, but while staying in McDonald's mansion he discovers a chilling secret that could man death for an innocent boy. Now Clyde must decide whom to save: the innocent child or his mysterious friend Rd?

U.S.A. \$19.99 CANADA \$22.99





The Devil Blues

The Unreal Life of ROBERT JOHNSON



AKIRA HIRAMOTO

Translated and adapted by David Ury Lettering by North Market Street Graphics



Ballantine Books · New York







The Story So Far

RJ, in appung blussman of limited talent, which also us all for one thing—to become a great bluss missican, the heard a rumor that his wish could be granted easily he had only to go to a certain crossroad at mindiples where the dead would gove him extraordinary talent in exchange for his saul. RJ makes the bargain, but the price to enhance the higher than he'd expected.

When he awakes from that terrible night, he learns that a long time has passed, and his wife and unborn child are dead. RJ has become the greatest blues musician in the world, but he now has nothing to live for.

Our bluesman embarks on a desperate journey from his hometown and meets a gangster on the run, Clyde Barrow, who has also lost his loved one, Bomme Soon after, RJ is kadnapped, and, in search of him, Clyde happens upon the small town where RJ has been imprisoned and whose residents are planning on hynching hom.

RJ's juliers are shocked when they notice his mutated right hand, which has ten lingers. The town's most powerful man, Stanley McDonald, shows up at the juli. The blind McDonald ask his young companion Toby to count RJ's fingers. Studdenly from out of nowhers, a hand grasps Toby's shoulder from behind.

Me and the Devil Blues

If I Had Possession over Judgment Day Akira Hiramoto

Me & the Devil Blues

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C o n t e n t s









ls this...the nigger's hand?



Help!

-





Who's that?

That's not Mr. McDonald's hand...

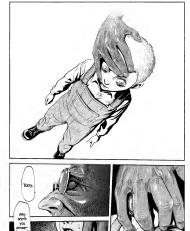


I'm scared





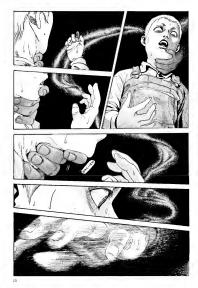
Help me!























































Any lawman who uses his position to break the very laws that he is meant to enforce...



Follow the law or follow my superior officer... as chief deputy, I wrestled over which one I should obey, but...























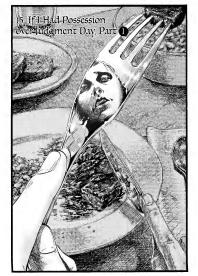








End of 14/32-20 Blues, Part













R-R white man? What's a white man doing in the same cell as me?

































That's it, Barney! Now hit him again.



Now give it to him good/ Punch him like you mean to kill him! Ha, ha, ha!



You keep hittin' like a girl, and that nigger'll up and lick you!

















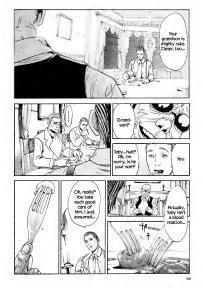


















save my skin. So go on, Barney. Do It/ Kill him/



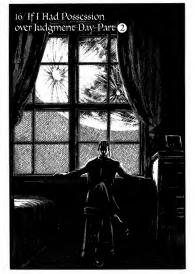
He's goma kill me.















out this

doesn'i

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right...

















Ha, ha, ha/ Don't you worry. I've got plenty of empty rooms.







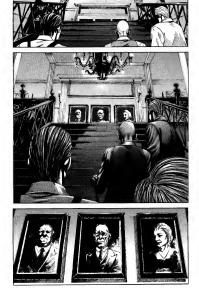








































Get back

here!

l'll kill you! You stood Don't you there watching try to act like while they beat the hell out of me.'























There was a witness! It was you, admit it!









dajik Sow that I with the standard of the stan

what happened...to RJ's hand? Was it like that from the beginning? But he was playing guitar in front of even body when we first met.

100































End of 16/ If I Had Possession over Judgment Day, Part 2

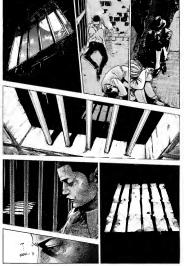


Devil Blues





























lt was worth it. RJ. Crossin'

that perilous bridge to find you





Well, I can tell just by looking at you...that you ain't aivin' up yet.

Hey, Ike. Did you know there was a white man there? Is that why you ran away...and

















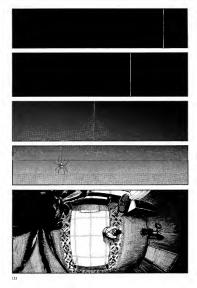








And the one who gave 'em an excuse to do it.



















The relationship between whites and blacks changed from master/slave to boss/worker, but...



After the civil war, ever since slavery ended...















































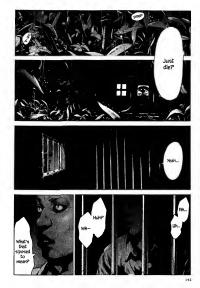






End of 17/ If I Had Possession over Judgment Day, Part 1









































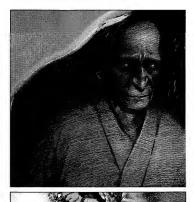












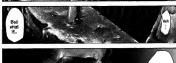




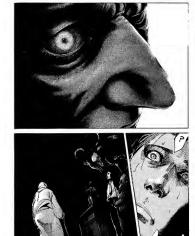














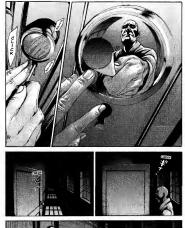
















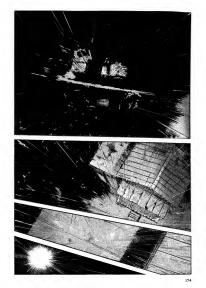






End of 18/If I Had Possession over Judgment Day, Part

























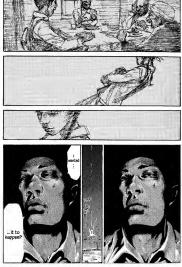
...happened because you wanted it to happen.





























































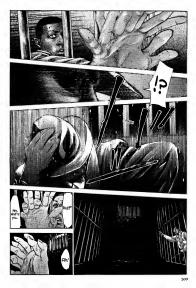
































Kenny MoDonald Norch 2 : 1914

































































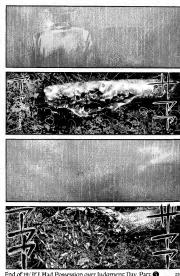












End of 19/ If I Had Possession over Judgment Day, Part 6













But there was nothing "fair" about what you did You should be ashamed of yourself. Do you understand



Listen. Tim...a true blue-blooded American treats people fairly.







it means to be an American. Tim. That's what it means to be a real

man.



It doesn't matter what happened. Gandina up on someone is never right. I don't want you doina anythina of the sort ever again.



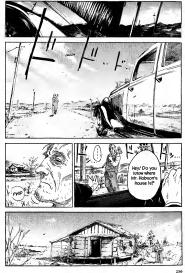


Now Tim...i you can't understand that....







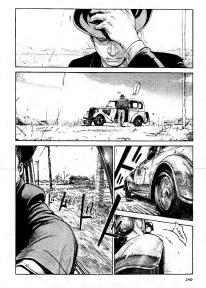
















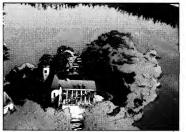


















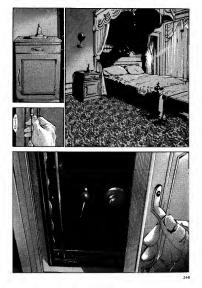


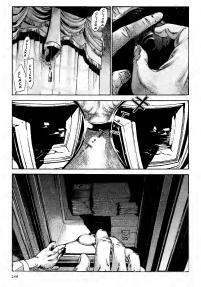
















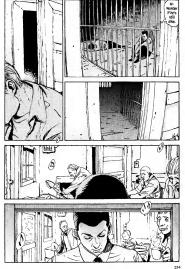






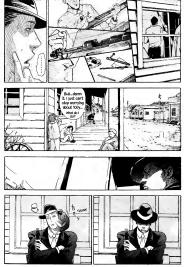


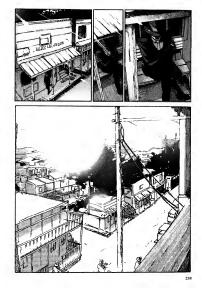


































































Don't you remember me? 'Cause I sure do remember your faces.





